

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated February 22, 2005, claims 1-12, 16 and 18-20 were rejected based on the prior art, and claims 13-15 and 17 were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

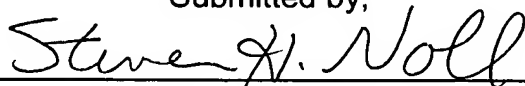
By the present Amendment, the subject matter of claim 13 (which includes the subject matter of claim 12) has been embodied in independent claim 1, and claims 12 and 13 accordingly have been cancelled. The dependency of claim 14 has been changed in view of the cancellation of claim 12.

Additionally, claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the subject matter of claims 12 and 17 therein.

In view of the indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 13 and 17, independent claims 1 and 16 and the claims respectively depending therefrom are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Early consideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Submitted by,



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